

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2010

5:15pm

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), David Olivas, Molly Mulhern, Jeff Kuller and Morgan Laidlaw (Select Board liaison), Rick Knowlton (Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Committee); **Excused:** Sharon Gilbert, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward;

Absent: Jen Conover, Duncan Matlack

Ray opened the meeting at 5:25pm

Molly moved that the January 6, 2009 minutes be approved, David seconded the motion, and it passed.

Committee Reports

RMRA Redevelopment: Rick Knowlton presented a lengthy update on different phases of the redevelopment project, including plans for the new lodge, budget issues, improvements to the ski slope, fundraising status, and upcoming deadlines. Rick said the architect (Stephen Blatt) has received lots of public feedback on the design of the lodge and will be making changes or responding to all of those concerns in March at a public meeting. David voiced the concerns of many in the community by saying "the building doesn't look pretty," but Rick responded that the graphics and models presented to date do not give a good picture of the true style and functionality of the building. Rick also said that the estimated infrastructure costs (utilities, septic, drainage, etc.) are about \$500,000 higher than projected and **may** have to be made up by downsizing the lodge or reducing the cost of some hillside improvements since **it may not be realistic** to raise additional funds from donors or the town. He also noted that the recent "**Snow Ball**" was a rousing success in helping to publicize the project and that fundraising commitments are over **\$1.5** million toward the goal of \$4.5 million, which will need to be raised (or committed) before the expected town vote in **June or** November 2011.

US National Toboggan Championships™: Jeff reported that all 400 competitive slots for this weekend's races are completely sold out. Parking plans, safety preparations, traffic control, vendor spaces, and lake ice are all in good shape for the event. Ray mentioned that more volunteers are needed.

Pathways Committee: Ray said that walking and biking paths being promoted by the Camden/Rockport Pathways Committee could be a beneficiary of future downtown and Route 1 improvements included in the proposed TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) Districts presented at a recent Select Board public hearing.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan: Subject was tabled for future discussion.

Playground Equipment: Nothing new.

Shared Use Trail Grant: A decision on the Parks & Recreation application should come soon.

New Business:

2010/2011 Budget: Jeff reported that he has had several preliminary meetings with Roberta Smith re next year's budget. He noted that the proposed overall budget has not increased, but there is a proposed increase in payroll **costs (salaries will not increase)**. The town's Budget Committee will review the Parks & Recreation budget on March 25.

Financial Report: Jeff reported that net income for the Snow Bowl was more than \$77,000 as of January 1st, about \$25,000 ahead of last year. He will send the latest financial statements to committee members via email.

Exchange Student: Jeff said that Camden Rotary has asked about getting a free skiing passes for an exchange student being hosted by Rotary members who are not season pass holders at the Snow Bowl (as **some** host families have been in the past, **where the students have been added on to the family pass**). The committee decided not to set a precedent by giving out free season passes to exchange students.

Upcoming Events:

Toboggan Nationals on February 5-7. Fireworks over the Harbor on Saturday, February 6.

Adjournment: Molly moved that the meeting be adjourned, David seconded the motion, and it passed at 6:40pm

Upcoming Meetings: Wednesdays, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd and July 7th at 5:15pm in the Code Office.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen.

